## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of obtaining electronic commerce purchases, said method comprising:

accepting registrations from a plurality electronic commerce customers, each said electronic commerce customers providing a customer email address;

providing a registered email address to each said electronic customer; and

accepting transaction acknowledgement email sent to said registered email addresses for transactions between at least one electronic commerce retailer and said electronic commerce customers.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, said method further comprising: storing information from said transaction acknowledgement email into a transaction database.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, said method further comprising: forwarding said transaction acknowledgement email to said electronic commerce customers using said customer email addresses.

1    4.    The method as claimed in claim 1, said method further comprising:

2         providing a record of electronic transactions to said electronic commerce

3              customers using a web site.


1    5.    The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein storing information

2    from said transaction acknowledgement email into said transaction database comprises

3    automatically parsing said transaction acknowledgement email to obtain said information.


1    6.    The method as claimed in claim 2, said method further comprising:

2         datamining said transaction database for desired electronic commerce information.


1    7.    The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said desired electronic

2    commerce information comprises a list of products often purchased using electronic

3    commerce transactions.


1    8.    The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said desired electronic

2    commerce information comprises a relative popularity of various electronic commerce

3    sites.

1        9.     The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said desired electronic

2  commerce information comprises customer demographic information.

1       10.    The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said information from

2  said transaction acknowledgement email comprises products purchased.

1       11.    The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said information from

2  said transaction acknowledgement email comprises product costs.

1       12.    The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said information from

2  said transaction acknowledgement email comprises transaction identifiers.

1       13.    The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said information from

2  said transaction acknowledgement email comprises shipping information.

1       14.    The method as claimed in claim 13, said method further

2  comprising:

3        accessing a third party shipping Internet site;

4 retrieving shipment status information using said shipping information or

5  transaction identifiers.


1   15. The method as claimed in claim 2, said method further comprising:

2 assisting said electronic commerce customers with customer interaction with said

3  electronic commerce retailer using said information from said transaction

4  acknowledgement email in said transaction database.


1   16. The method as claimed in claim 15 wherein said customer

2 interaction comprises a product return.


1   17. The method as claimed in claim 2, said method further comprising:

2 targeting special offers to a subset of electronic commerce customers by accessing

3  information in said transaction database.


1   18. The method as claimed in claim 2, said method further comprising:

2 updating said information in said transaction database with shipment information.

1          19.     The method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said shipment

2     information is entered by said electronic commerce customers.


1          20.     The method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said shipment

2     information is obtained by accessing a web site of said electronic commerce retailer.


1          21.     The method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said shipment

2     information is obtained by accessing a web site of a third party shipper.


1          22.     The method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said shipment

2     information is obtained from an email message from said electronic commerce retailer or

3     third party shipper.


1          23.     The method as claimed in claim 1, said method further comprising:

2          filtering spam sent to said registered email address.


1          24.     A method of tracking electronic commerce information, said

2     method comprising:

3          accepting registrations from a plurality of electronic commerce customers;


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4      examining electronic commerce transaction acknowledgements from electronic

5          transactions between a plurality of electronic commerce retailers and said

6          electronic commerce customers; and

7      storing information from said electronic commerce transaction acknowledgements

8          into an electronic transaction database.

1          25.     The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein storing information

2 from said transaction acknowledgement into said electronic transaction database

3 comprises automatically parsing said electronic commerce transaction acknowledgements

4 to obtain said information.

1          26.     The method as claimed in claim 24, said method further

2 comprising:

3      scanning electronic commerce transaction acknowledgement web pages to receive

4          said electronic commerce transaction acknowledgements.

1          27.     The method as claimed in claim 26 further comprising:

2 automatically parsing said electronic commerce transaction acknowledgement

3      web pages to obtain said information.

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28.     The method as claimed in claim 24, said method further
comprising:

receiving electronic commerce transaction acknowledgements in the form of

electronic transaction acknowledgement email from electronic transactions

between a plurality of electronic commerce retailers and said electronic

commerce customers.

29.     The method as claimed in claim 28 further comprising:

automatically parsing said electronic transaction acknowledgement email to

obtain said information.

30.     The method as claimed in claim 28 wherein said electronic

transaction acknowledgement email is received directly from said plurality of electronic

commerce retailers.

31.     The method as claimed in claim 28 wherein said electronic

transaction acknowledgement email is received from email serving sites of said electronic

commerce customers.

1          32.     The method as claimed in claim 31 wherein said electronic

2    transaction acknowledgement email is automatically sent by a filter program on

3    computers associated with said email-serving sites.


1          33.     The method as claimed in claim 32 wherein said filter program

2    identifies said electronic transaction acknowledgement email associated with said

3    electronic commerce customers and sends said electronic transaction acknowledgement

4    email.


1          34.     The method as claimed in claim 31 wherein said email-serving

2    sites comprise Internet service providers.


1          35.     The method as claimed in claim 28 wherein said electronic

2    transaction acknowledgement email is received from said electronic commerce

3    customers.


1          36.     The method as claimed in claim 35 wherein said electronic

2    transaction acknowledgement email is manually sent by said electronic commerce

3    customers.

1          37.     The method as claimed in claim 35 wherein said electronic

2   transaction acknowledgement email is automatically sent by a program on computers

3   ~~associated with said electronic commerce customers.~~


1          38.     The method as claimed in claim 37 wherein said program identifies

2   said electronic transaction acknowledgement email and sends said electronic transaction

3   acknowledgement email.


1          39.     The method as claimed in claim 24, said method further

2   comprising:

3     accessing an electronic commerce site with authentication information from said

4      electronic commerce customers to receive said electronic commerce

5      ~~transaction acknowledgements.~~


1          40.     The method as claimed in claim 39 wherein said authentication

2   information comprises a username and password.

1             41.     The method as claimed in claim 28, said method further

2   comprising:

3       forwarding said transaction acknowledgement email to said electronic commerce

4       customers using email addresses of said electronic commerce customers.

1             42.     The method as claimed in claim 24, said method further

2   comprising:

3       providing a record of said electronic transactions to said electronic commerce

4       customers using a web site.

1             43.     The method as claimed in claim 24, said method further

2   comprising:

3       datamining said electronic transaction database for desired electronic commerce

4        information.

1             44.     The method as claimed in claim 43 wherein said desired electronic

2   commerce information comprises a list of products often purchased using electronic

3   commerce transactions.

1         45.     The method as claimed in claim 43 wherein said desired electronic

2 commerce information comprises a relative popularity of various electronic commerce

3 sites.

1         46.     The method as claimed in claim 43 wherein said desired electronic

2 commerce information comprises customer demographic information.

1         47.     The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein said information from

2 said electronic commerce transaction acknowledgements comprises products purchased.

1         48.     The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein said information from

2 said electronic commerce transaction acknowledgements comprises product costs.

1         49.     The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein said information from

2 said electronic commerce transaction acknowledgements comprises transaction

3 identifiers.

1         50.     The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein said information from

2 said electronic commerce transaction acknowledgements comprises shipping information.

1          51.    The method as claimed in claim 50, said method further

2  comprising:

3          accessing a third party shipping Internet site;

4          retrieving shipment status information using said shipping information.

1          52.    The method as claimed in claim 24, said method further

2  comprising:

3          assisting said electronic commerce customers with customer interaction with said

4             electronic commerce retailer using said information from said electronic

5             commerce transaction acknowledgements in said transaction database.

1          53.    The method as claimed in claim 52 wherein said customer

2  interaction comprises a product return.

1          54.    The method as claimed in claim 24, said method further

2  comprising:

3          targeting special offers to a subset of electronic commerce customers by accessing

4             information in said transaction database.

1          55.     The method as claimed in claim 24, said method further

2 comprising:

3       updating said information in said transaction database with shipment information.


1          56.     The method as claimed in claim 55 wherein said shipment

2 information is entered by said electronic commerce customers.


1          57.     The method as claimed in claim 55 wherein said shipment

2 information is obtained by accessing a web site of said electronic commerce retailer.


1          58.     The method as claimed in claim 55 wherein said shipment

2 information is obtained from an email message from said electronic commerce retailer or

3 a third party shipper.